as early as in 1957. This particular demand of handing over DDA to the Delhi Government is to be debated once again in Parliament since DDA itself has been created by an Act of Parliament. *Suo motu* at this particular point of time, I will not be in a position to give any answer to the hon. Member in regard to the handing over of the DDA to the Delhi Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The hon. Minister may read through the debate...*(Interruptions)*

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Shri Jag Mohan is a learned person and an hon. Member. Everyday we discuss the issue of Delhi among several other issues.

This particular issue requires a long debate.

With regard to the second part, we will certainly come up with a better coordination with the State Government of Delhi for addressing this problem once the Buch Committee gives its recommendations to the State Government of Delhi.

Exploration of Hydrocarbon

*246. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts committee have recommended single widow clearance for hydrocarbon resources utilisation to strengthen international cooperation in proper exploration and utilisation of hydrocarbon resources for economic advancement of all the countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the proposals made in this regard; and

(c) the details of action plan drawn up to facilitate greater global cooperation in the exploration of hydrocarbons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government is not aware of any such recommendations made by an "experts committee".

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to hike in production and drilling cost of Oil and Natural Gas Commission the expenditure is likely to increased and many companies are not agreed to renew rigs contract. It may affect our oil production. I would like to know as to the steps being taken by the Government in this regard so as to find out a lasting solution to this problem with international cooperation?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, to attract private investment the working Group of Petroleum sector for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan has recommended certain major fiscal incentives to secure participation by the private sector in the exploration of oil and gas...*(Interruptions)* Some incentives in the reducation of cess and royalty; cess and royalty to be made and ad-valorem of oil and gas price not for a specific amount; withdrawal of customs duty on import-related to upstream operations; development of special package for exploration in the North-Eastern States; and exploration efforts to be treated at par with research and development infrastructure etc. for giving tax incentives.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to the wrong policies of the Government Kerosene is selling at Rs. 2.60 litre in rural areas and the rate is Rs. 10 per litre in the open market. Will any stren action be taken against those people who are selling kerosene at Rs. 10 per litre?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The matter is under consideration We will be coming to the point.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Prices of Petrol

*243. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the only country where prices of diesel and petrol are not identical; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and the steps taken to rationalise these prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No Sir. According to the data available, the prices of Diesel (HSD) and Petrol (MS) are fixed differentially in various countries. The prices of these products in some of the countries are given below :

Prices of Diesel and Petrol in Various Countries

Prices in Local Currency/Litre

Country	Currency	Diesel	Petrol	Differential (Percentage)
1	2	3	4	5
Germany	Mark	1.27	1.59	25.2
France	Franc	4.00	5.70	42.5
Finland	Markka	3.91	5.54	41.7
Sweden	Sek	6.70	8.21	22.5